

By facsimile 1-571-273-8300 - 2 pages

File No. 16051-9US CC

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE****RECEIVED  
CENTRAL FAX CENTER****MAR 14 2006**

Applicants: Andrew VAILLANT et al.  
Serial number: 10/661,088  
Filing date: September 12, 2003  
For: ANTIVIRAL OLIGONUCLEOTIDES TARGETING HBV  
Art Unit: 1648  
Examiner: Bo, PENG  
Agent: Cawthorn, Christian

-----

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450  
U. S. A.

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated January 17, 2006 in connection with the above-identified patent application, please consider the following remarks. This response is being filed concurrently with a petition for a 1-month extension of time.

In response to the Outstanding Restriction Requirement, Applicants elect Group II, drawn to claims 3 and 11-32 for prosecution. The Applicants also elect the species of the oligonucleotide REP 2006, phosphorothioated linkage (in claims 18-24) and 2'-O-methyl modification to the ribose moiety (in claim 21). In addition, the Applicants wish to specify that

- 2 -

Commissioner for Patents

File No. 16051-9US CC

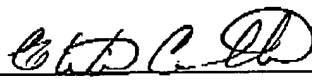
the elected oligonucleotide is a monomer (relevant to claim 25). The Applicants also elect the specie consisting of an antiviral pharmaceutical composition adapted for delivery by injection.

In the event that there are any questions concerning this Response, or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned so that prosecution of the application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 14, 2006

By:

  
Christian Cawthorn, Reg. No. 47,352  
Agent for Applicants

OGILVY RENAULT LLP  
1981 McGill College, Suite 1600  
Montreal, Quebec H3A 2Y3  
CANADA

Tel: (514) 847-4256

**CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION**

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the  
Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

Christian Cawthorn  
Name of person signing certification

  
Signature

March 14, 2006  
Date